



HipLok Mega Chain £169.99

Tough as diamond



Tested by Tom Willard for two months

This chain is huge, truly "Mega" as its fitting name suggests. I've committed it to home use only because it's so hefty that carrying it daily is not something that makes a lot of sense.

Tough 22mm hardened steel links net the Mega Chain a Sold Secure Powered Cycle Diamond rating – widely accepted as the top tier in motorcycle security. I found it a little on the short side at 1.3m, yet it still weighs a titanic 12.3kg. To make the most of its loop-end design you need to use a sizable D-lock, sold separately might I add.

Compared to smaller chains it is less flexible when you are weaving it through the bike and proved a close fit through some wheel designs but clearly its priority is in keeping your bike where you left it instead of convenience.

It's been comforting to know my machine is secured with something so intimidating that wannabe thieves may just turn the other way at the mere sight of it... if they don't, then it will put up an impressive fight, especially if you lock your bike to something solid like an anchor.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.hiplok.com

Diamond rated and super chunky



Two months ON TEST

Oxford Hot Seat £79.99

Toasty buns



Tested by Saffron Wilson for five months

A bottom-pleasing, lower-cost solution for bikes that don't have the option of an accessory heated seat, the Oxford Hot Seat is a plug-and-play heated element that's designed to sit on any bike seat.

When I first got the Hot Seat, the morning was a crisp two degrees, and I had an hour-and-a half to ride until I reached my destination. I decided to set it to the blue mid-option which gives you 75% of the potential heat (the top 'red' setting is 100% and the lowest 'green' setting is 50%). I settled in and was delighted when only a few miles down the road I felt like I was sitting on a warm radiator. Bear in mind I had pants, thermals, jeans and textiles between me and the saddle.

The only issue I had is once you get up to temperature, it's quite difficult to change the setting on the move – although it is possible just so long as you familiarise yourself with where the button is. But note that to avoid overheating you might have to wriggle around on the seat to dissipate the heat or risk getting a grilled behind! (I joke, but it was incredibly toasty and could become uncomfortable – but I'm taking that as a plus since you can always turn it



Smooth it out before you ride off

down to the lower setting.) The heated seat cover was easy to install; it just hooks up to your battery terminals alongside your heated jacket should you have one. And even though it's almost impossible to create something which is a 'one size fits all' for motorcycles, with its elasticated straps it can accommodate a wide range, and the grippy material on the top and bottom means it's not slipping all over the place.

The material can bunch up depending on your seat size, so be prepared to give it a stretch out before you ride.

The only issue with keeping this on your bike for all your winter riding is that Oxford have only marketed the seat as weatherproof, so don't expect it to fight off a deluge and be prepared to take it off should you need to. But I didn't read this initially and left it on during a quick 'get the salt off spritz' with a jet wash – fortunately it still works like a charm. So maybe it really is the perfect partner for winter.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com

One winter ON TEST

Beeline Moto II Anniversary Edition £259.99

Brilliant 10th birthday boost



Tested by Richard Newland for three weeks

While I've only had the Anniversary Edition of Beeline's Moto II for a few weeks, its internal organs are identical to the existing Moto II – with which I've covered over 8890 miles.

The all-black Anniversary Edition features a lovely full metal jacket, complete with crosshatch detailing around its circumference. While stylistically almost the same as the existing gunmetal and silver options, I think this is the best looking and boasts the most quality feel.

In use, it's identical to the rest of the range, meaning a long southward push on its rocker switch wakes it

Navigation in its purest sense



832 miles ON TEST

from sleep, and once paired to the phone app you have a full suite of navigation planning and recording options at your fingertips. Once your route, waypoints, avoidances and preferences are set, the USB-C rechargeable battery-powered unit receives its instructions from your phone via Bluetooth – meaning your

phone can be safely stashed in a pocket / rucksack, protected from the elements. Only 2500 of this special edition will be produced. The price includes a year's subscription to Beeline Plus (£40) and entry to a fantastic Malle competition.
MCN rating ★★★★★
beeline.co



Bubbly action to bring back the zing

One month ON TEST

Zing bike cleaner £4.99

Does its job



Tested by Charlotte King for two bike washes

This Zing motorcycle cleaner does what it needs to do. Simply rinse the bike with a pressure washer or hose, spray across the bike, leave it for a couple of minutes and then give it a

good rub down to get that bubbly action going. Once you're are happy that every inch has had a good scrubbing, rinse it off.

It did a good job of cleaning the salt from my bike after some winter riding with just a quick noodle mitt wipe over. The smell is pleasant, a sort of citrus, it sprays easily and is biodegradable too.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk